



National Agricultural Statistics Service
Michigan Statistical Office
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michigan Crop-Weather



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Excessive Rain

One day was suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 23, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Most of the State was inundated with heavy rainfall over the week. Southern districts had repeated severe storms that flooded fields and homes, uprooted trees, and interrupted power supplies to many areas. Northern parts of the State, while receiving less inclement weather, were also too wet for farmers to make much progress. The least amount of precipitation recorded for the week was 1.77 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. All other districts reported at least 2 inches of rain, with four districts receiving over 3 inches. The south central Lower Peninsula was swamped with 3.78 inches of rain. All districts in the State are now above average for their cumulative precipitation since April 1. Temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula to 6 degrees above normal in the three southern Lower Peninsula districts. All across the State, farmers commented that they were behind on their spring work and noted it would take a bit of time after this latest round of precipitation before they were able to resume tillage and planting activities. A grower in the Thumb reported, "This week was another wet one. All fieldwork is on hold and the crops that did get planted sure aren't growing very fast." A producer in the south central summed up the week simply as, "Way too much water in such a short period of time."

Field Crops

Cold, wet, and windy weather continued across the State. Persistent rains this past week put a halt to fieldwork. Soil across the State was saturated due to the rain. **Corn** was still emerging, but at a slow pace. In some areas, farmers may have to replant corn fields. Rain has delayed application of herbicides. **Alfalfa** fields were beginning to yellow due to excess moisture in the root zone. Overall, hay is looking great with all the moisture. In some areas around the State, the first cutting of hay was ready to be harvested. Some **soybean** fields are under water. Dry weather is needed for farmers to finish planting the rest of their crop. **Wheat** fields were still being watched closely due to powdery mildew being spotted in some fields. Wheat was in a critical heading stage so infections of Fusarium head scab can occur. Overall, wheat was growing at a rapid pace. **Sugarbeet** fields were being sprayed, and stands looked good.

Fruit

Wet conditions and high humidity are causing difficulty for Michigan fruit growers. Fungal and bacterial diseases, standing water, and damaging hail are just some of the weather related problems growers faced last week. However, warm temperatures have generally pushed fruit development a few days ahead of normal.

Apple fruit set was light in the southwest, and there was a heavy drop. Primary scab season is over, but secondary lesion spread is possible, given the wet weather. In the southeast, apples had reached 9 to 10 mm in size. Apple scab spore discharge continued with each rain event. Powdery mildew also continued to be found at many farms. Around Grand Rapids, scab and trauma blight due to recent hail was a concern. In the west central, apples were in full bloom to petal fall. Heavy apple scab infection was a concern in the northwest. **Tart cherries** in the west central were in shuck. Prolonged wetting events resulted in many fungal and bacterial infections. In the northwest, buds progressed into bloom, and the May 3 freeze damage became more evident. **Sweet cherries** were generally developing nicely, with some plum curculio damage starting to show. **Peach** fruit set varies by variety, and looked good for most varieties grown in the southwest. In the southeast, peaches had progressed past shuck split. In the west central, peaches were at shuck. Prolonged wetting has caused the same fungal and bacterial concerns for peaches as other tree fruits. **Pears** had a light fruit set in the southwest. In the southeast, pears were 9 to 10 mm in size. Growers were applying control measures for pear psylla. A fire blight infection period has occurred on pears in the northwest. **Strawberry** bloom ended in the southwest and neared its end in the southeast. In **grapes**, two or three flower clusters per shoot are common. Low lying vineyards damaged by frost show no green growth that can be seen from the roadside. A few secondary buds have come out in older Concord vineyards. Niagara secondaries show more movement. In vineyards that were heavily cropped last year and frosted this spring, many basal buds are beginning to grow.

Vegetables

Wet conditions dampened vegetable growers' plans for much of the week. **Asparagus** picking was in full swing in the primary growing districts. Yield reports were mixed and quality was variable, depending on the weather at harvest. Some asparagus beetle and cutworm activity was reported, along with some purple spot. **Celery** planting occurred between rain showers in the western part of the State. Most **onions** in the west were emerged. Overwintered **spinach** harvest began and spring plantings in the west central looked good, given all the inclement weather. In the southeast, leaf **lettuce** on plastic was nearing harvest, **cole** crops were making steady progress, and **carrot** planting in some locations neared completion. Most growers in the southeast were waiting for drier weather to transplant **tomatoes**, **peppers** and **melons**.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/23/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	0	23	77
Subsoil	0	1	49	50

Crop condition for week ending 05/23/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	1	3	27	46	23
Barley	0	7	20	64	9
Corn	3	7	37	41	12
Oats	1	2	25	58	14
Pasture	2	1	25	45	27
Winter Wheat	0	1	24	54	21

Crop progress for week ending 05/23/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, first cutting	2	0	3	3
Asparagus, harvested	48	31	52	53
Barley, planted	90	80	82	89
Barley, emerged	61	50	58	75
Corn, planted	71	65	61	74
Corn, emerged	55	36	25	43
Oats, planted	95	91	95	96
Oats, emerged	90	76	79	87
Potatoes, planted	63	54	NA	NA
Potatoes, emerged	30	10	NA	NA
Soybeans, planted	36	33	27	45
Soybeans, emerged	26	16	6	20
Winter wheat, headed	20	3	1	12

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/23/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	72	37		214	236		1.77	2.61	2.90	5.24		
Marquette	74	35		179	211		2.26	3.17	3.55	6.09		
Stephenson	82	37		284	300		2.02	3.19	3.84	6.16		
Western UP	82	35	-2	206	228	231	1.77	2.56	2.87	4.96	4.59	3.37
Cornell	70	36		166	211		2.01	2.68	3.10	4.68		
Sault St Marie	70	39		112	206		2.20	3.24	4.34	5.67		
Eastern UP	73	30	0	142	181	152	2.05	2.89	3.49	4.63	4.57	3.01
Beulah	77	38		281	290		1.99	4.01	5.61	8.89		
Lake City	75	35		300	277		2.88	4.60	6.98	10.60		
Old Mission	77	35		257	250		2.73	4.51	5.07	7.33		
Pellston	77	28		252	257		3.25	4.24	4.51	6.23		
Northwest	77	28	-1	260	256	276	2.49	4.16	5.29	7.69	4.54	2.61
Alpena	78	37		252	220		2.15	3.01	4.73	6.03		
Houghton Lake	75	36		312	305		3.45	5.30	7.65	10.37		
Rogers City	78	34		279	202		2.26	3.52	5.44	7.56		
Northeast	79	28	-1	292	265	258	2.39	3.67	5.82	8.05	4.55	2.76
Fremont	77	43		407	349		2.40	2.78	7.69	9.35		
Hart	78	41		356	294		2.07	3.74	7.77	9.73		
Muskegon	76	45		407	330		4.80	5.99	7.58	9.26		
West Central	78	39	3	375	320	318	2.97	4.16	7.46	9.27	5.13	2.67
Alma	79	45		443	336		2.99	4.24	8.24	9.75		
Big Rapids	80	47		394	316		3.17	4.23	7.12	8.48		
Central	80	45	2	424	324	351	3.04	4.24	8.06	9.59	5.15	2.79
Bad Axe	80	39		358	226		2.57	2.99	6.55	9.59		
Pigeon	79	41		331	239		2.52	3.48	7.21	9.55		
Saginaw	80	49		397	295		2.72	4.75	8.43	9.73		
Standish	79	40		353	271		1.24	3.80	7.38	9.90		
East Central	80	39	0	355	266	333	2.41	3.71	7.43	9.51	4.54	2.63
Fennville	80	45		446	355		3.21	4.50	6.06	7.18		
Grand Rapids	81	50		527	361		4.66	6.95	9.16	11.31		
Holland	81	49		461	345		1.63	2.72	4.32	5.50		
South Bend, IN	83	45		589	415		1.74	3.40	4.50	4.98		
Watervliet	80	45		496	372		2.33	3.54	4.55	5.46		
Southwest	84	36	6	498	383	380	3.29	4.76	6.44	7.56	5.69	3.01
Belding	82	49		471	340		3.55	5.13	6.98	8.84		
Coldwater	82	54		496	353		2.36	3.86	6.12	6.42		
Lansing	81	45		491	376		4.77	6.90	9.58	10.22		
South Central	85	39	6	495	382	380	3.78	5.38	8.12	8.89	5.39	2.92
Detroit	84	49		521	394		4.60	5.26	7.61	8.20		
Flint	82	46		512	379		3.60	4.96	7.20	7.74		
Romeo	83	44		465	334		4.78	6.05	9.38	10.78		
Tipton	83	47		491	382		1.98	3.57	5.89	6.18		
Toledo, OH	84	49		569	410		1.62	2.25	3.57	4.53		
Southeast	85	42	6	497	378	360	3.24	4.33	7.12	7.92	5.38	2.85

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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